

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 06252 251927Z

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5855

UNCLAS LIMA 6252

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CARR, PE (AMERICAN PRISONERS IN PERU)

SUBJECT: WELFARE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS

REF: STATE 170779

1. SUGGESTIONS MADE PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2 REFTEL ARE ALREADY BEING IMPLEMENTED IN PERU. PROBLEM IS TWOFOLD: (A) SUM OF MONEY PERMITTED IN PRISONER'S HANDS BY PRISON REGULATIONS IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO PAY WEEKLY FOOD BILL OF 2-3,000 SOLES PER PERSON AND (B) EMBASSY IS 30 MINUTE DRIVE FROM FEDERAL MEN'S PRISON, AND IT IS THEREFORE DIFFICULT TO DELIVER FUNDS MORE THAN ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS SINCE DELIVERY REQUIRES SEVERAL HOURS OF CONSULAR STAFF TIME. SOME PRISONERS SEND NOTES TO EMBASSY AUTHORIZING DIRECT PAYMENT OF VENDORS AND LAWYERS BY EMBASSY FROM THEIR FUNDS.

2. FORTUNATELY AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN VERY LENIENT CONCERNING SUMS OF MONEY ENTERING PRISON FOR AMERICANS VIA EITHER CONSULAR OFFICERS, STAFF OR PRISON SOCIAL WORKERS, WITH IMPLIED UNDERSTANDING THAT PRISONERS WILL POLICE THEMSELVES. THERE HAS NOT BEEN RECENT REPETITION OF THE PROBLEM OF CONFISCATION OF EXCESS MONEY WHICH AROSE EARLIER THIS YEAR, BUT IT IS CONOFF'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS IS MAINLY DUE TO PRISONERS TAKING GREATER CARE TO CONCEAL FUNDS OR, IN SOME CASES, DEPOSITING FUNDS WITH PRISON AUTHORITIES.

3. WITH REGARD TO PARAGRAPH 3, PROBLEM IS NOT SEEN AS ONE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICAN'S IMAGE WITH PENAL AUTHORITIES, JUDGES, OR PEERS. PENAL AUTHORITIES CONSIDER AMERICAN NONVIOLENT, WELL BEHAVED PRISONERS WHO DO NOT GENERALLY INDULGE IN UNDESIRABLE BEHAVIOR OTHER THAN PURCHASE AND USE OF DRUGS BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE GROUP. GUARDS HAVE GENERALLY TREATED THEM FAVORABLY. AS TO JUDGES, ONE RECENTLY COMMENTED THAT THEY JUDGE LAW AND NOT PEOPLE. AS TO PEERS, PRISONERS ARE OBVIOUS FOREIGNERS AND AS SUCH ARE NATURALLY TREATED AS OUTSIDERS;

THEY HAVE NOT BEEN COMMONLY MISTREATED, HOWEVER EMBASSY HAS RECENTLY BEEN ABLE TO AID DIVISION OF PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN ACQUIRING MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR USE IN PRISON INFIRMARY FROM CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION IN U.S. THIS HAS CERTAINLY IMPROVED WILLINGNESS OF LIMITED MEDICAL STAFF AT MENS PRISON TO BE OF ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, MOST AMERICANS SHOW MARKED RELUCTANCE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LIMITED ASSISTANCE OFFERED BY PRISION MEDICAL STAFF AND SOCIAL SERVICES.
SHLAUDEMAM

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